

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) is accepting donations to fund both the immediate needs and long-term Mississippi Baptist disaster relief efforts along the Gulf Coast and throughout the state. Checks should be made payable to MBCB, with "Hurricane Relief" noted on the memo line, and mailed to MBCB Business Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Fully 100% of the donations will be used directly for hurricane relief. More information on how to contribute can be obtained by calling (601) 292-3206, or e-mailing mbcbdisasterrelief@mbcb.org.

BMC trustees approve male students

BLUE MOUNTAIN, Ms.
(Special) — The Blue Mountain College (BMC) Board of Trustees voted unanimously on October 7 to open all its programs to male students, effective January 2006.

The institution has been affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention since May 1920. Founded as a college for women in 1873, the college modified its mission in 1956 to include male students who were preparing for the ministry and those taking non-degree courses. BMC trustee Chairman Bobby P. Martin of Ripley said that "opening all programs to male students at Blue Mountain College is evidence of the institution's commitment to serve students who desire to study in a Christian environment."

Having successfully served male students in a limited role for the last fifty years, the college is now positioned to broaden its influence by enrolling men in all of its programs. Trustee James Lewis, a 1977 BMC graduate and a Carriage Hills Church in So said, "Blue Mountain College responsibility to move forward to broaden her influence and b

blessing to others."

General Mark Perrin Lowrey, founder of Blue Mountain College, responded to a need for Christian education for women in post-Civil War Mississippi. Alumnae serving on the board believe that opening the enrollment to male students honors the tradition and heritage of BMC's founder. Jean Anderson Morgan of Swainsboro, Ga., chair of the board's Committee on Development and Finance and a 1947 alumna, stated, "The course of action which the Blue Mountain College board has adopted is



BMC TRUSTEES — Among the members of the Board of Trustees of Blue Mountain College (BMC) who voted unanimously on October 7 to admit male students to the Mississippi Baptist school are (back row, from left) Richard T. Bennett of Jackson, Harold Wayne Hankins of Ripley (secretary), Rob Futral of Madison, Bobby P. Martin of Ripley (chair), Mike Staten of New Albany, Bettye Rogers Coward (BMC president), Morgan Whitfield of Tupelo, Thad Moore of Bella Vista, Ar. (vice-chair), Carl M. White of Meridian, Ray M. Sartor of Ripley; James M. Lewis of Southaven, (front row, from left) Linda Gholston of Tupelo, Linda Bishop Johnson of Germantown, Tn., Jane Anderson Preston of Booneville; Jean Anderson Morgan of Swainsboro, Ga., Kat Beaty of Jackson; Jeanette Collier Phillips of Oxford, and Marie Cox McAlpin of Brandon. (Photo courtesy of BMC)

bold and far-reaching. The measures will move the College into a new era of achievement in Christian education which is our mandate. We have the responsibility to continue and to advance the College's legacy of excellence which has impacted so many since its founding in 1873."

One Blue Mountain College alumna sees the change as an opportunity to expand the College's influence significantly. Linda Bishop Johnson of Germantown, Tn., a 1968 alumna and current trustee, said, "In 1873, General Lowrey must have been a progressive individual to have initiated the original concept for establishing the institution that we now know as Blue Mountain College. I think he would encourage us to be attuned to today's world and therefore

serve all individuals who are seeking higher education in a Christian environment."

Blue Mountain College President Bettye Rogers Coward — the only female president of a Baptist-affiliated college in the Southern Baptist Convention — noted the importance of preserving an institution's core values upon which it was founded but adjusting, as necessary, to respond to educational needs today.

Blue Mountain College is one of three institutions of higher learning affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The others are William Carey College in Hattiesburg, and Mississippi College in Clinton.

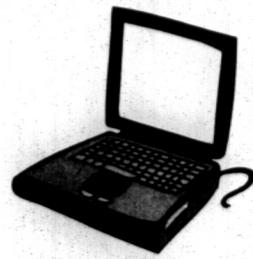
For more information about Blue Mountain College, contact the Office of Admissions at (800) 235-0136, or visit www.bmc.edu.

Miss. CP slows in Sept.

Gifts to the work of the Lord through the Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) in September slowed when compared both to giving last month and for the same period in 2004, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which disburses the funds. The September total of \$2,437,766 is 16.4% lower than the \$2,917,261 given in August, and 13.8% lower than the \$2,829,614 given in the same period in 2004. Total Mississippi CP giving for the current fiscal year, which runs from January-December, stands at \$24,303,131, which is 3.8% above last year's giving during the same period and 3.5% ahead of current year budget needs. The 2005 Mississippi CP budget of \$31,314,491, was approved by messengers to the 2004 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. A total of \$2,609,541 is needed each month to meet the convention board's budget for 2005. In addition to helping support more than 10,700 missionaries in the U.S. and around the world through affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention, Mississippi CP also helps fund such programs as the GA Mother/Daughter Overnight Camp on October 21-22 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton; the Ministers' Wives Conference on October 31 at First Church, Jackson; and the Mississippi Baptist Conference for the Deaf on November 4-6 at Camp Garaywa.

SBC CP up for month

NASHVILLE, Tn. (BP) — Contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) for September were \$16,504,872, 4.6%, or \$723,204, above the \$15,781,668 given in August, and 23.2%, or \$3,109,357, above the \$13,395,515 received in September 2004, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman. Since a new SBC fiscal year starts in October, no other reportable figures were available. However, Cooperative Program giving for national causes in fiscal year 2004-05 finished above giving for the previous year, the 11th rise in 12 years. Receipts totaled \$195,948,423, an increase of \$6,083,168, or 3.2% over the 2003-04 amount of \$189,865,255. Importantly, 2004-05 contributions exceeded the approved budget by \$12,496,729, and because of budget actions taken in September, the extra amount will be redirected to meet extraordinary hurricane recovery needs of Southern Baptists. The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. The Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions and fellowships for distribution according to the 2004-05 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget.



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I oppose expanding gambling into new areas of our state.

— Haley Barbour campaign letter, April 16, 2003

When I ran for Governor, I said I opposed the expansion of gaming beyond the counties where it already existed. That remains my position, and this proposal is entirely consistent with that "no expansion" platform.

— Haley Barbour address to Legislature September 27, 2005

It depends on what the meaning of the word "is" is.

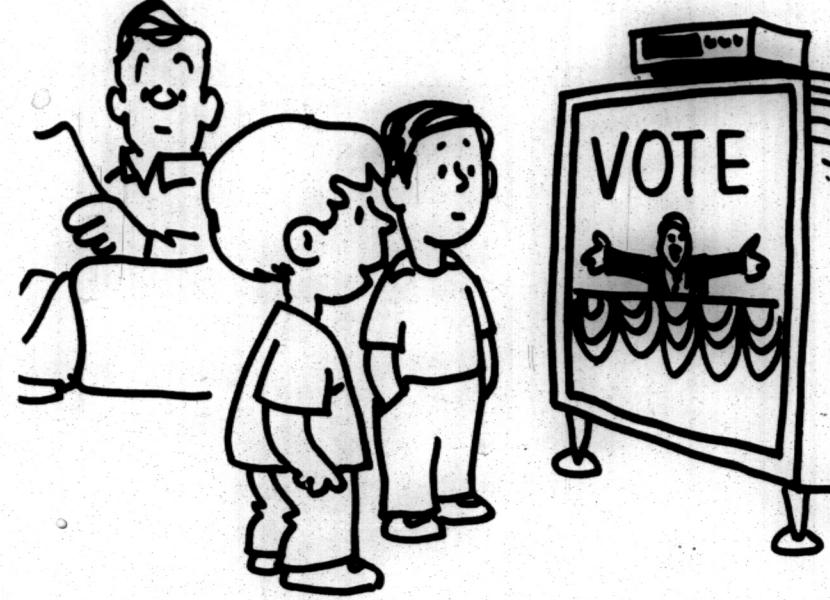
— President Bill Clinton August 17, 1998

Mississippi will soon have land-based casinos dotting the Gulf Coast almost all the way to Interstate 10, thanks to legislation passed last week in the special session called by Governor Haley Barbour.

You remember Haley Barbour — the staunch anti-gambling advocate when he was running for Governor in 2003 (see first quote above) who turned into a "gaming" enthusiast in 2005 (see second quote above), but there's more to this enormous flip-flop than Barbour softening his language to appease his gambling supporters.

At the risk of being pedagogical, a dictionary review of a

"WHEN I GROW UP, I'M GOING TO BE EITHER A STRATEGIST OR ACTIVIST — I HAVEN'T DECIDED WHICH."



couple of commonly-used words seems to be in order. According to Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, one of the definitions of the word "new" is, "different from one of the same category that existed before." One of the definitions of the word "expand," according to Mr. Webster, is "to increase the extent, number, volume, or scope of: EN-LARGE" (emphasis Webster's).

In other words, if a casino moves one inch from where it

currently resides, the ground to which it moves is new to the casino because it is different from the way it was before. Likewise, if a casino moves one inch from where it currently resides, the casino has increased its extent and scope and has thus expanded.

Shorn of legalese and political double-talk, it's that simple.

Former President Bill Clinton, who was heavily criticized in this space in the past for his ethical and moral lapses,

uttered the memorable observation listed third above. While all politicians are apt to spin words to suit their own purposes, Barbour's "no expansion" argument in the case of land-based casinos is a world-class whopper right up there with that of the former president.

"When he was running for governor in 2003, he sat in my office twice and told me he would not expand the gambling industry," said Don Wildmon, president of the American Family Association in Tupelo who personally endorsed Barbour for governor when he ran in 2003, in a September 28, 2005, article in The New York Times.

That revelation, gentle reader, indicates at the very least that Mississippi Baptists haven't lost our collective mind when we insist that we understood Candidate Barbour was anti-gambling as opposed to Governor Barbour's pro-gambling maneuvers of late.

"His constituency was the money people and the moral people, but he's chosen to split his constituency and go with the money people," Wildmon went on to say in The New York Times article.

That could well be true; time will tell. One thing's for certain, though — we'd better keep our dictionaries handy for the remainder of the Barbour Administration.

campus, at Gulfport sites, and through on-line instruction.

The Hattiesburg campus had extensive roof damage and a heavy loss of trees. Clean-up has been diligent and swift. Although most of the countless shade trees on campus are gone, the spirit of unity and dedication that has always been a part of the Carey family is stronger than ever.

Of greater importance is the loss and havoc Katrina has caused in the lives of many of our students, faculty, and staff. We share their agony and trauma during their grief from the death of loved ones, personal suffering, material devastation, and loss of employment. We acknowledge the dramatic after-effects of this traumatic event, the worst most of us have ever experienced. We at WCC pray without ceasing for wise solutions to the countless challenges before all of us.

At our college, we embrace the words of our namesake, William Carey, as our motto: "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God."

We await with anticipation the great things God has in store for our distinguished Christian college. William Carey College will continue to provide education with a plus.

GUEST OPINION:



Inspired to live selfless lives

By Larry Kennedy, President
William Carey College
Hattiesburg

of 2005. Two of our outstanding faculty members were selected for Rotary Fellowships and our 22nd Rotary Scholar will soon be announced. The kickoff for the year long Centennial Celebration of the College was scheduled for Homecoming in January 2006. The theme is Celebrating The Past; Embracing The Future.

Most importantly, after seven years of frugal and careful spending, the College debt (\$7,300,000 in 1997) was scheduled to be paid off in October 2006. We were indeed rejoicing in the abundant blessings of recent years.

On August 29, the course of the history of the College changed dramatically. We were vividly reminded of the wrath

of nature as 140 miles-per-hour winds and a 35-feet storm surge of sea water engulfed our twenty-acre Gulfport campus on Beach Drive. Most buildings were gutted or destroyed. The College has scheduled classes at other locations in the Gulfport area to accommodate as many of the Coast Campus students as possible. Some students now attend classes on the Hattiesburg main campus though space for housing and instruction is already limited.

The new facility of the School of Nursing on the campus of New Orleans Seminary suffered little damage, but no date has been set for the scheduling of classes there. Every effort is being made to accommodate the 373 students on the Hattiesburg

Baptists make history in Katrina response



HELP IS HERE — Victims of Hurricane Katrina move through the feeding station at First Church, Biloxi, carrying meals prepared by the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force set up in the parking lot of the church. The Task Force has exceeded the previously estimated capacity of 10,000 meals per day on several occasions since arriving on the Gulf Coast immediately after the hurricane. (BP photo by Norm Miller)

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP and local reports) — As meals prepared by Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers surpassed the historic six million mark on October 5, more than 1,400 Southern Baptist churches have committed to the Adopt A Church initiative to assist churches damaged in hurricane-ravaged Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Since Katrina's landfall in late August and Hurricane Rita's in September, 6,000 disaster relief volunteers from 40 states have prepared 6,087,549 meals for residents and relief workers. Previously, the most meals prepared in a Southern Baptist Disaster Relief response was 2.5 million during Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Mississippi Baptists have been well-represented in those totals, with their Disaster Relief Task Force at one point pushing its massive mobile kitchen to 12,000 meals per day — 120% of the previously estimated capacity. In addition, hundreds of Mississippi Baptists have helped staff feeding units from around the Southern Baptist Convention, the American Red Cross, and the Salvation.

While Mississippi Baptists continue to be involved in feeding victims of the massive storm, other Mississippi Baptists have completed thousands of chain saw jobs and have begun the "mud-out" process of helping people get back into their homes.

So far, more than 1,300 of 1,431 churches registering online for Adopt A Church have been referred to state conventions in

Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, which will in turn link the healthy churches with hundreds of churches needing assistance. Churches are still needed to commit to the initiative.

The Adopt A Church partnership was initiated by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) the week after Hurricane Katrina destroyed thousands of homes and business along the Gulf Coast, including hundreds of SBC churches. The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board quickly signed on and is now taking applications on its web site (www.mbc.org) from both needy churches in the state and churches from both in-state and out-of-state that want to adopt those churches.

Adopting churches from across the United States and Canada are being assigned to affected state Baptist conventions which will then match them with damaged and destroyed churches in their respective states. Adopting churches are asked to make a commitment of 12-24 months — or however long it takes for the affected church to get back on its feet.

Churches desiring to offer assistance through Adopt a Church may register online at www.mbc.org. More information is available by e-mailing mbcbdisasterrelief@mbcb.org.

More than half of all mobile Southern Baptist Disaster Relief units have been involved in Katrina/Rita response, said Jim Burton, director of volunteer mobilization at the North

American Mission Board (NAMB). "Southern Baptist Disaster Relief ministries continues to exceed all previous expectations," he said. "There is no way that we can fully know today the extent of ministry that has taken place. Beyond people being fed physically and spiritually, I believe that God will bless the faithfulness of Southern Baptists in this response to further grow this ministry."

Burton said disaster relief response is serving as a "rallying point" for Southern Baptists residing inside and outside affected regions. "Is it possible that God will use this disaster as an awakening among Southern Baptists to rediscover our cooperative ministry roots while being proactive to meet real needs in our churches' communities?" Burton asked. "I believe that God will use this to draw us together as a

denomination united to share Christ with every American."

As meal preparation slows in upcoming weeks, long-term cleanup and recovery efforts will grow and more volunteers will be needed, he said. "The number of damaged homes and churches is overwhelming. Volunteers will be needed for years to assist in the long-term recovery efforts."

Southern Baptist volunteers prepare most of the meals distributed by the American Red Cross and provide cleanup and recovery, communications, childcare, and other vital disaster relief services. Southern Baptists are the third-largest disaster relief operation in the country behind the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army, with more than 30,000 trained volunteers on call for local, state, and national emergencies.

Looking back

10 years ago

Fairview Church, Itawamba, celebrates its 150th anniversary.

20 years ago

Harry Piland, director of the Sunday School department at the Baptist Sunday School Board, briefs Mississippi Baptists on the new growth campaign, "Challenge 10/90", which aims to enroll 10 million people in Sunday School by 1990.

50 years ago

B. J. Murrie, editor of the Illinois Baptist newspaper, suggests that the Southern Baptist Convention change its name to the International Baptist Convention. "Nearly everyone agrees that the name Southern Baptist Convention is outmoded and needs to be changed," he states.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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THE BAPTIST
Record

AN OPEN LETTER TO DISASTER RELIEF VOLUNTEERS



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

I wanted to send you a personal letter expressing my deep appreciation for all that you have done, but that would be impossible. I wanted to thank you personally from the depths of my heart and on behalf of hundreds of thousands of people across our state who were helped, blessed, encouraged, and sustained by what you did. I soon found that the task of thanking you would be impossible because it is impossible to know who you are. What I do know is that there were over 43,000 Southern Baptist volunteers who responded to come and help from all across the country. They came from the northeast and the northwest, the central part of our country, and from all across the south. They came ready to work. They came ready to do whatever needed to be done in order to relieve the suffering and sustain the people of our storm ravaged state and to the best of their ability pump us up until we could get ourselves together, get back up, and begin piecing our lives back together.

That 43,000 does not include the hundreds of you who just heard about a particular need in a particular spot, gathered your resources, loaded them in trucks, and headed toward the need. It does not include the scores of



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

churches across our state who immediately set up feeding units in their church kitchens, organized, and operated distribution points, or who waded into locked off communities where twisted and mangled trees were everywhere. It does not include the groups of men and women who could not stay put but packed up water, chainsaws, willing hands, and endless loads of compassion and went south. Nor does it include the thousands of people who for whatever reason could not come but reached down in their pockets and gave money in order to help. It does not include many of the students who took time off from college or seminary work and traveled to the disaster, lived in harsh conditions, and went out into the chaos to deliver hope and love. It does not include multitudes of folks in our churches who overnight transformed what had been church facilities for people who gathered once or twice a week into a living community of Good

Samaritans who helped pickup people displaced by the storm and help carry their burdens on their shoulders.

Though I do not know everyone of you, I have daily run into one, two, or clusters of you or have seen your good work reflected in the eyes of the people who you touched. Since I could not find every one of you to shake your hand, to hug your neck, or even to write you a note and say thank you, I wanted to take this means to express these words of appreciation. Have you made any difference? Indeed you have in unbelievable, incredible, and eternal ways.

I was visiting with just one of the chainsaw crews that came in and this group of hard working, sweaty, selfless men was telling me that they had seen five people come to know the Lord Jesus in the few days they had been at work. The guys were euphoric as they told about one lady's house that had trees on top of it and

destruction all around. They spent a day and a half at that one house. After the first day of trying to cut the trees off the house and straighten up some of the debris they returned the second day to finish the job. When they went back that second morning, the little elderly lady who lived there trusted Jesus as her Savior. As each one of them would interrupt another one to tell another part of the story, they could hardly wait to get back to work where another person was in need in order that they might show and tell the real answer to all of our human disasters.

I thought to myself how it might have been possible for this little lady to live out her entire life never coming to one of our churches or ever having the privilege of meeting someone as full of Jesus' love as these guys were. On behalf of that little lady, many others whose experiences are similar, many of the hurting saints who needed your help, and the many who have prayed for you as you served, please accept our thanks and know that without a doubt the Lord has been glorified through your efforts and literally millions have been blessed because you cared.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

New Orleans Seminary to offer music classes

October 17 begins the second of eight music courses at five locations in Mississippi sponsored by New Orleans Seminary. The second course, Worship Planning, will meet once a week for two hours for eight consecutive weeks at the following locations and times:

- Broadmoor Church, Madison — beginning October 17 (7-9 p.m.) Jimmy McCaleb, Teacher, (H) 601-924-1233.
- First Church, Booneville — beginning October 17 (7-9 p.m.) LuAnne Ford,

Teacher, (C) 662-728-6272.

- Northcrest Church, Meridian — beginning October 17 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) Buddy McElroy, Teacher, (C) 601-681-6615, (H) 601-679-1887.
- Hernando Church, Hernando — beginning October 17 (7-9 p.m.) Barry Tweedy, Teacher, (C) 662-429-6361.
- Tri-County Associational Building, Columbia — beginning October 18 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) Jimmy McCaleb, Teacher, (H) 601-924-1233.

These courses are designed to provide basic training for bivocational music directors and other music leaders in churches. The eight courses meet two hours per week. Each course is eight weeks in length.

The cycle of courses is scheduled over a two-year period. Each course is independent and has no prerequisite. Each student who completes the eight courses earns a Church Music Certificate from New Orleans Seminary plus a credit of eight hours toward an on campus degree program. There is a one-time registration fee of \$25.00. The cost of each course is \$125.00.

A \$60.00 scholarship is available for all first-time students. Students already enrolled are not eligible.

The grant is limited to one person per church.

The eight courses in the series are:

- Song Leading
- Worship Planning
- Reading Music: Rhythm/Pitch
- Reading Music: Harmony/Melody
- Hymnology
- Music Administration/Staff Relations
- Survey of Music Resources
- Class Voice.

These classes could be offered at other locations in the state, where 8-10 students are interested in enrolling. For more information, contact Jimmy McCaleb (601) 292-3273 or (800) 748-1651, ext. 273.

E-mail: www.mccaleb@highstream.net.



Motions to amend Plan of Organization and Action

Article XXIII of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) Plan of Organization and Action states that the Plan may be amended in the same way as the MBC Constitution. Article VII, Section 2, of the MBC Constitution mandates that proposed amendments be published in The Baptist Record. To fulfill that requirement, The Baptist Record offers publication of the following motions made at the 2004 annual session which would require amendment of the MBC Plan of Organization and Action and which will be brought before messengers to the 2005 annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. By this publication, no endorsement or opposition is implied by either The Baptist Record or the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The grayed areas represent the changes being proposed. The strike-through indicates the part that is being changed.

Article XI, The Mississippi Baptist Foundation

Current: Section 4. — The Foundation shall be supported by an annual allocation from the receipts of the Cooperative Program as administered by the Convention Board subject to direction of the Convention, and/or, from funds designated by the donors thereof to the Foundation.

Proposed: Section 4. — The Foundation shall be supported by an annual allocation from the receipts of the Cooperative Program as administered by the Convention Board subject to direction of the Convention, and/or, from funds designated by the donors thereof to the Foundation, and/or, from cost recovery charges assessed to assets managed by the Foundation, as administered by the Foundation's trustees.

Article VII, Trustees of Colleges, Hospitals, Child Care Agency

Current: Section 1. — Each college, hospital, or child care agency owned and supported by the Convention shall be operated and controlled by a board of trustees of at least fifteen but not more than twenty-four members elected by the Convention for terms of three years in the manner prescribed by the Bylaws of the Convention.

Proposed: Section 1. — Each college, hospital, or child care agency owned and supported by the Convention shall be operated and controlled by a board of trustees of at least fifteen but not more than thirty members elected by the Convention for terms of three years in the manner prescribed by the Bylaws of the Convention.

N.O. like 'Hollywood science fiction set'

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — It's the hardest thing he's ever done, said Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Seminary. "This is something no one could imagine. There's no book for this, no path for this," Kelley said after returning to the campus to help students and faculty dig through flooded houses and mud-covered possessions. Driving through this city is like driving through a Hollywood science fiction set."

Kelley, whose house on campus was not flooded, returned October 5 when the campus first opened to faculty and students wanting to return to salvage what they could from their campus houses. He spent the next several days, dressed in a T-shirt and work pants, walking from house to house.

"I'm just walking into the homes of students and faculty and hugging on them, crying with them and praying for them," he said.

All of the faculty houses — 40 of them — were flooded and about 45% of the student housing was flooded, "but I've never been prouder of them," Kelley said of the flood victims. "They're handling this well, working to heal one another and help one another."

About 75% of the 2,000 students who started classes two weeks before Hurricane Katrina hit have continued with some form of coursework. Classes have been restructured to enable students to continue. Some classes are continuing online, while some are having intensive workshops to finish the coursework, with Kelley describing it as "probably the greatest example of innovative, creative teaching in Baptist academic history."

The Executive Committee, acting ad interim on behalf of the Southern



DAMAGE EXTENSIVE — New Orleans Seminary students Melinda and Justin Langford look over the remains of their first-floor apartment. The couple moved into the apartment — and painted all the rooms — two weeks before Hurricane Katrina hit, destroying all of their possessions. (BP photo by Sherri Brown)

Baptist Convention in September, approved a funding formula freeze undergirding New Orleans Seminary. Southern Baptists' six seminaries receive different levels of funding based on a rolling three-year average of their enrollment under a "full-time equivalent" (FTE) enrollment formula.

For 2003-04 New Orleans Seminary had 1,823 students based on the FTE formula. This figure will apply to the 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 budget years to allow the seminary to recover from any loss in enrollment from Hurricane Katrina.

"The Executive Committee has already voted to freeze Cooperative Program donations for the next three years so we will have budget stability," Kelley said. "They also voted that we will receive 50 percent of the CP surplus at the end of the year. We're so grateful for the support."

The Executive Committee voted unanimously to allocate one-half of beyond-the-budget Cooperative Program contributions for SBC national causes, received for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, to aid faculty and students in recovering from losses and to help rebuild the campus. Contributions

exceeded the approved budget by \$12,496,728.55. Beyond the NOBTS allocation, one-fourth was allocated to the three state conventions most affected by the hurricane (to keep ministers in the field and to assist churches in recovery) and one-fourth to the North American Mission Board (to support the extensive hurricane disaster relief operations).

Additionally, the Executive Committee voted to follow the same formula for beyond-the-budget receipts for the Cooperative Program Allocation Budget during the first quarter (October, November, December) of the new fiscal year. "We have to continue [classes]. We have students ready for December graduation. They're ready to get out and serve God and we're going to see that that happens," Kelley said.

Through permanent records, the dean of students is calling every student from temporary offices in Atlanta. Every professor also is calling every student on his or her roll.

"They're making sure students are safe and they're asking how we can help them finish their degrees," Kelly said. The seminary currently plans to reopen in January with a partial slate of on-campus classes. A full schedule — and a return to "normal" — should be offered in August 2006.

His job is difficult these days, but Kelley knows he has the prayers of thousands of Southern Baptists supporting him.

"You could say I've got a hard job right now. But there's not been a single moment that I haven't had calm and peace in my soul. That's not a result of any spirituality on my part, that's the result of the prayers. This has not stopped the work of the Kingdom of God. Southern Baptists need to know we're thinking opportunity, not disaster."

So. Baptists respond swiftly to Pakistan earthquake

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — As the confirmed death toll moved into the tens of thousands in remote towns and villages flattened by the worst earthquake in Pakistan's history, Southern Baptist workers in South Asia moved quickly to find ways to help survivors.

With an initial \$50,000 in Southern Baptist emergency relief funds, workers headed into the region October 9 to assess critical needs and buy supplies. The aid likely will include food and medical supplies. Two workers already have entered one of the most heavily damaged areas with a truckload of supplies, and 150 tents have been delivered to families left homeless by the 7.6-magnitude quake. Workers also are investigating the possibility of sending small teams of disaster-trained volunteers into damaged areas in the days to come.

They're traveling to "areas that were hardest-hit by the earthquake," said a worker. "The devastation in mountain villages is vast due to landslides caused by the quake. One national believer described his home village as 'nothing but dust.' Please pray that the Lord would lead [relief teams] to the places where immediate help is most needed

and to places that might otherwise be overlooked."

Many who were not injured but lost homes and loved ones are seeking shelter and food with increasing desperation.

"Emergency relief is flooding in, but supplies are diminishing quickly and prices are already rising," the Southern Baptist worker said. "There has been a mob-like rush for the help that has started, which has been difficult for those trying to help. Please pray for patience, love and calmness for the [aid] workers. This is not something that will immediately be solved, so ask that we have the strength to carry out the task ahead. More than anything, we want people to have an everlasting hope. Ask that we be able to see where the Holy Spirit is working and follow Him. Ask that God will break down barriers and provide the words and opportunities for sharing His love and grace."

The October 8 earthquake struck hardest along Pakistan's northwest frontier and in the mountainous Kashmir region — fought over for decades by Pakistan and India. The quake claimed most of its victims in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir but reportedly killed more

than 1,000 people on the Indian side. It shook buildings from central Afghanistan to western Bangladesh.

The quake and resulting landslides buried thousands of Pakistani villagers in the rubble of their homes, schools and businesses. Initial rescue efforts were hampered by the remoteness of the region, numerous aftershocks and bad weather.

In addition to the dead, Pakistani officials estimated more than 43,000 people were injured. They appealed for helicopters, tents, blankets, and other assistance. More than 2.5 million people lost their homes in the quake and its immediate aftermath, according to United Nations relief coordinators in Islamabad, Pakistan's capital.

No Southern Baptists serving in South Asia were hurt in the earthquake and its immediate aftermath. But a number of them felt the massive tremor's force — including several who were far from the epicenter.

"When the earthquake hit, people ran out of their homes screaming and crying out prayers to God," a worker in a neighboring country reported.

Another worker, who serves about 1,200 kilometers from the

quake zone, said, "Our apartment started swaying. It felt like being in a gently rocking boat, and it went on for a couple of minutes. Most people in our building evacuated for some time, worried about stronger aftershocks."

A Southern Baptist closer to the devastated region held on as the quake rocked the area. "I was unsure whether to try to get out of the house or just stand in the doorjamb," she said. "As soon as we could, we went outside, only to see the surrounding mountains covered with clouds of dust.... We've felt aftershocks throughout the day today (Oct. 9) as well. Please pray for those who've lost loved ones and homes."

Other workers in South Asia also appealed for prayer. Their requests include:

- Pray that survivors buried alive under rubble and landslides will be found and rescued.
- Pray that aid will reach remote areas.
- Pray for government leaders and aid workers as they coordinate relief efforts.
- Pray that the thousands of injured survivors will receive spiritual as well as physical healing.



Lay Missions Conf., Banquet postponed

Due to the demands of Hurricane Katrina response and because of the focus on meeting the needs of pastors and church staff in the areas where destruction was so great, the Lay Missions Conference and Banquet scheduled for October 31 have been postponed. Please check www.mbc.org later for a rescheduling announcement, which will also appear in The Baptist Record.



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www.mbcu.org



5. Youth attend Heartsong, Oak Grove Church, Prentiss

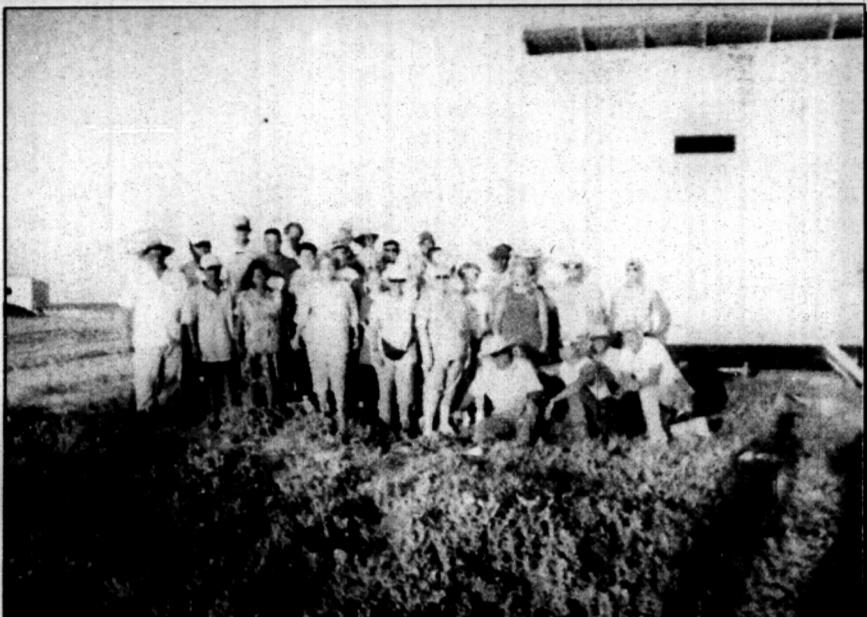


6. Deacon Ordination, Williamsville Church, Kosciusko

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Scholarship Winners, Westwood Church, Meridian



2. Hurricane Relief in Mexico, Mississippi Baptists Churches



3. Bible Drillers, Slayden Church, Marshall/Lafayette Association



4. RA Recognition, First Church, Columbia

1. Westwood Church, Meridian, awarded four college scholarships in memory of L. Gordon Sansing. Shown are pastor Ritchie Davis, Polly Sansing, Andrew Lee, Jessica Schnoor, and Cody Hicks.
2. Mississippi Baptists from Calvary Chapel, Parchman; First Church, Greenville; First Church, Cleveland; First Church, Coldwater; Thompson Church, Smithdale; Madden Church, Madden; Oloh Church, Oloh; Moak's Creek, Bogue Chitto; and Open Door Church, Summit, participated in recovery efforts after Hurricane Emily struck one of the poorest areas of Mexico in August. Twenty-eight people participated; shown are the participants.
3. Slayden Church, Marshall/Lafayette Association, recognizes their adult Bible Drill team. First row: Faye Sanders, Ruth Gamble, Peggy Billingsley, and Tabitha Sanders; back row, Katherine Boling, Deborah Sanders, and Doris Stone.
4. First Church, Columbia, recognizes their 3rd and 4th grade RAs. Shown are the participants.
5. The youth of Oak Grove Church, Prentiss, attended HeartSong Music Camp 2005 at Gulfshore Assembly, Pass Christian. Shown, front row, are Kyla Creel, Sarah Lee, Samantha Creel, and Denise Hudson; back row, Sandy Farnham, Jacob Farnham, Nick Bullock, Marissa Farnham, and Karen Creel.
6. Williamsville Church, Kosciusko, recently ordained Jimmy Williamson and Butch Bell as deacons. Shown are Williamson, Ann Williamson, Patsy Bell, and Bell.
7. First Church, Jackson, is sponsoring a weekly seminar/support meeting called GriefShare, for those grieving the death of someone close. Groups meet every Sunday, Sept. 18-Dec. 4, 5-7 p.m., room 532, west hall. For more information, call (601) 949-1907.

First Baptist Church
Natchez, Mississippi
presents in Concert:
Point of Grace
Sunday, October 23rd
6:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$20 For tickets call 601-442-1464.



JUST FOR THE RECORD



8. Deacon Ordination, New Hope Church, Foxworth



9. Rowland Recognized for Service, Wallerville Church, New Albany

8. **New Hope Church, Foxworth**, ordained Mike Patrick as deacon Sept. 18. Shown are pastor Tim Parker, Patrick, and Roy Moody.

9. **Wallerville Church, New Albany**, recognized Danny Rowland for 30 years of service as minister of music. Shown are pastor Horace Thomas and Rowland.

10. **Oak Hill Church, Meridian**, recently ordained Chuck Dooley and George Ranger as deacons. Shown are Dooley, Ranger, and Mike Russell, pastor.

11. **North Union Church, Attala Association**, will dedicate their new church auditorium Oct. 16, 2 p.m. Bobby Waggoner, speaker.

12. **Mt. Moriah Church, Bogue Chitto**, will host their annual Old Fashioned Day Oct. 30. Worship, 11 a.m., followed by a meal and other activities and games. Walt Grayson, speaker.

13. **Alta Woods Church, Jackson**, will have a men's breakfast Oct. 16, 6:30 a.m., followed by prayer in small groups. This celebrates their 47th year of

uninterrupted prayer ministry. The 10:30 a.m. service will be a celebration of this prayer service. Reservation for the breakfast should be made at (601) 372-8651.

14. **Cedar View Church, Olive Branch**, will host a community singing Oct. 15, 5:30 p.m. The church's youth will serve soup, chili, and desserts beginning at 4 p.m. for donations.

15. **Morrison Chapel Church, Cleveland**, recently ordained Rodney Jones to the gospel ministry and Terry Clark as deacon.

16. **Calvary Church, West Point**, ordained Jonathan Edwards as deacon Aug. 21. Shown are pastor James M. Tillery, Edwards, and Mike Pearson.

17. **Midway Church, Jackson**, ordained Willie Ginn as deacon Sept. 18. Shown are Ginn and pastor Charles Gentry.

18. **Glendale Church, Leland**, recognized Matthew Adams for three years perfect attendance in discipleship training. Shown are Adams and Shirley Sivils, his teacher and grandmother.



10. Deacon Ordination, Oak Hill Church, Meridian



16. Deacon Ordination, Calvary Church, West Point



18. Perfect Attendance, Glendale Church, Leland



17. Deacon Ordination, Midway Church, Jackson

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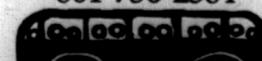
ZOIAZR, ZOIAZR, A YUR
MEPT RTM, OJVOWP U
VTIE TN HLOUP NUCC
AEPT PLO SITMEQ UEQ
QAO, AP UDAQOPL
UCTEO: DMP AN AP QAO,
AP DIAESOPL NTIPL
GMVL NIMAP.

FTLE PHOCZO: PHOEP-
NTMI

Clue: N = F
Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Ten: Thirty-Four.

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REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Chunky Church, Chunky: Homecoming and revival, Oct. 16-20; Sun., worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Robert Rowzee, speaker; music by the Rowzees.

Days Church, Desoto: Homecoming, Oct. 16; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing with Providence; Rowland Crawford, speaker; Mike Henry, music; Revival, Oct. 17-19, 7 p.m.; Bob Hensley, speaker; Bill Edge, pastor.

Elmo Church, Fayette: Revival, Oct. 16-19; Sun., 11 a.m. worship, followed by covered dish lunch; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m., preceded by covered dish meal nightly; Vann Windom, speaker; Jamall Badry, music; James Earl Hunsucker, pastor.

Evansville Church, Coldwater: Homecoming, Nov. 6; worship, 10 a.m.; Wade Stillman, speaker.

Fair River Church, Brookhaven: Revival, Oct. 16-19; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, speaker; Price Harris, music; David Fortenberry, pastor.

First Church, Potts Camp: Homecoming and Revival, Oct. 23-26; Sun., Sunday School, 9:30; singing and

worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck meal; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Troy Defer Jr., speaker; Andy Roe and Landmarks Quartet, music.

Georgetown Church, Georgetown: Homecoming, Oct. 30; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Joel Haire, speaker; Trent Nethery, pastor.

Gooden Lake Church, Belzoni: Homecoming, Oct. 16; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck lunch with local talent providing music; Robby Britt, speaker; Bob Gilliland, pastor.

Jericho Church, Guntown: 125th anniversary and homecoming, Oct. 22-23; Sat., informal reception, 2-5 p.m.; Sun., service with former music directors and pastors, 9 a.m.; presentation of plaque and worship, followed by potluck meal and cemetery decoration, 10 a.m.; service with former music directors and pastors, 1 p.m.; Marvin Robbins, speaker.

Mt. Vernon Church, Newton Association: Homecoming and 175th anniversary, Oct. 16; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch. Phillip Marshall, speaker; Steve Pouncey, pastor; William Savell, minister of music.

Mt. Vernon Church, West: Homecoming, Oct. 16; gospel music, 11 a.m., followed by worship and pot luck dinner; music by Earl Aldridge; Al Different, pastor.

Navilla Church, Navilla: Centennial; Oct. 21, birthday celebration, 6:30 p.m., with hot dogs and hamburgers; praise and testimonies, 7 p.m. with Benny Still and others; Oct. 22, 2-4 p.m., formal reception for former pastors, ministers, and members; praise and worship service 6:30 p.m., with David Henderson, Bob Lynch, and others; Oct. 23, worship, 9:30 a.m.

with Still and Howard Brister; worship, 11 a.m., with Henderson, John Watts, and presentation from the historical society, followed by potluck dinner on the grounds.

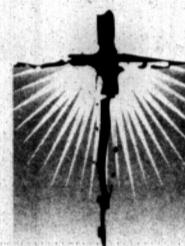
New Salem Church, Caledonia: 125th Anniversary, Oct. 16; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and singing.

Rawls Springs, Hattiesburg: Revival, Oct. 16-19; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Mitchell, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, worship leader.

Richmond Church, Tupelo: Revival, Nov. 6-9; both Sunday services and Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; led by Campers on Mission revival team.

Sandersville Church, Sandersville: Homecoming and Revival, Oct. 16-19; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Johnny Tucker, speaker; Gloria Ladner and Eric Benson, music.

Southway Church, Brookhaven: Revival, Oct. 23-26; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m., followed by fellowship supper; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, speaker; Mike Britt, music; Leon Wallace, pastor.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

STAFF CHANGES

Bay Springs Church, Bay Springs, has called Robby Johnson as pastor. Johnson previously served Freedom Church, Laurel.

First Church, Carthage, has called Justin Arnold as student pastor. Arnold is a graduate of Leavell College of New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife Lauren are from Brandon.



The Manns

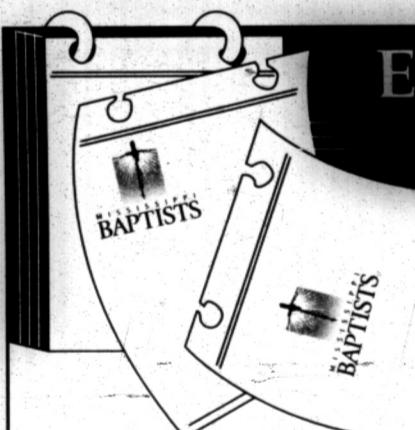
Noxapater Church, Noxapater, has called Jeff Mann as pastor. Mann previously served Linwood Church, Union, and is a graduate of Southeastern Seminary. He is married to the former Stacie R. Jones of Okmulgee, Okla.

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EVENT STATUS UPDATES



The following list contains updated information on events. More events will be added to this list as soon as the information becomes available.

**• State Literacy
Missions Workshop**
Woman's Missionary Union
Camp Garaywa, Oct. 13-15,
Postponed; rescheduled as

three separate events on
Oct. 13-15, Oct. 14-15,
and Nov. 3-5, 2005.

- Flake's Formula for the Future – Biloxi**
Sunday School
First Baptist Church, Biloxi
Oct. 21-22, Cancelled
- Missions Mobilization
Celebration Banquet**
Missions Mobilization
First Baptist Church, Jackson
Nov. 11, Cancelled
- Missions Mobilization
Conferences**
Missions Mobilization
Baptist Building Skyroom,
Jackson, Nov. 12, Cancelled

online at
www.mbc.org

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**For information, reservations
letter from Pastor Burgess & brochure call:
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COLLEGE NEWS



3. Scholarships granted, BMC

1. **Mississippi College School of Nursing** is holding their annual health fair on Tuesday, November 1st from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm located on the 4th floor of First Church in Jackson. Various health screenings such as hearing, vision, glaucoma, blood pressure, glucose, height, weight, and stress tests will be available to the public. Health education information will be available on various subjects such as cardiovascular, cancer, adult immunizations; men and women's health, wellness, home safety, mental health, diabetes, and nutrition.



Mississippi College

2. **Blue Mountain College** will host a Meet the Authors and Book Signing on its campus on October 18, noon until 2 p.m., at the BMC bookstore. Thomas Cockrell, BMC professor and author, co-edited Chickasaw, A Mississippi Scout for the Union, The Civil War Memoir of Levi H. Naron with long-time friend, archivist, and collaborator Michael Ballard of Mississippi State University.

A reception and book signing will be held at BMC's Guyton Library beginning at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Office of Public Relations at (662)685-4771, Ext. 246.

3. The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board recently held the annual Church-Related Vocations banquet at **Blue Mountain College**. The Carpenter-Gandy Scholarship was awarded to Dallas Pitts, a junior Biblical studies major from Columbus, and the Hardy R. Denham, Jr. Scholarship was awarded to Jeffrey Harrison, a senior Biblical studies major from Belmont. Pictured (left to right) are Jim Futral, Ronald Meeks, Harrison, Pitts, and Bettye Rogers Coward.

4. In honor of **William Carey College**'s 100th Anniversary, a tribute concert, Faith for



the Journey, will be presented Oct. 16 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Hattiesburg at 7 p.m. The concert will feature the WCC Chorale; Carpenter's Wood; the Madrigal Ensemble; the WCC Handbell Choir; organ accompaniment by Kathy Vail, assistant professor of music; solo performance by Don Frazure, artist in residence at Carey and Metropolitan Opera tenor; and narration by Eugene Owens, assistant professor of music and education. Families are invited to attend Faith for the Journey admission free. The church is located at 115 N. 25th Avenue.

5. The **William Carey College** Office of Admissions announced a new recruiting event for incoming freshman and transfer students called Crusader Days that will offer students a new glimpse of what WCC has to offer. Crusader Days are planned for November 11, December 9, January 13 and March 25 from 9 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. For more information, please contact the admissions office at (601) 318-6103 or (800) 962-5991 ext. 103. You can visit the college's website at www.wmcarey.edu.



6. **Kennedy and Noonkester, WCC**

6. President Emeritus J. Ralph Noonkester and his wife Naomi were honored at **William Carey College** recently with the unveiling of official portraits and a reception. Nearly 200 guests attended the event. Noonkester was associated with Carey for 37 years and served as president for 33 years. 1956-1989. Shown are current president Larry Kennedy and Noonkester.



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(2) Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)		0	0
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(1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541		0	0
(2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541		0	0
(3) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS		0	0
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		0	0
f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d, and 15e)		522	514
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c, and 15f)		89,994	86,205
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j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c, divided by 15g, times 100)		99%	99%
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publication required. Will be printed in the October 13, 2005 issue of this publication.		□ Publication not required.	
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner <i>John A. Beckwith</i>		Date 9-29-05	

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form (including civil penalties).

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2. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.
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5. If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.
6. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
7. Item 17 must be signed.

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PS Form 3526, October 1998 (Reverse)

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Sept. 10-30

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Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project

The Baptist Children's Village for the 3rd year will be partnering with Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization headed by Rev. Franklin Graham. This project provides shoeboxes filled with gifts and candy for children in need around the world. These gifts are given and the gospel is shared with children who have never received a Christmas gift or heard the truth about Jesus Christ. This project is also a mission project for The Baptist Children's Village residents. Many the residents volunteer in the relay center and are learning how important it is to serve others. The collection dates are November 14-21. For more information contact Chrystelle Thamess at The Baptist Children's Village at 601.922.2242 or cthames@baptistchildrensvillage.com or go to www.samaritanspurse.org.



The ladies of the Swannanoa Social Tribe of Mississippi College has been volunteering by cutting, counting, binding and packaging the Campbell's Labels for Education. Keep sending the BCV your labels so these ladies can stay busy.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Live in God's Peace

Ephesians 2:11-22

We live in a world of division. Countries, cultures, communities and classes are divided. Sadly, even churches are known for division. For example, years ago in a small Tennessee town, there was a church that practiced foot washing. An argument began over which foot should be washed first. The group insisting on the left foot taking precedence eventually withdrew and organized its own church which they proudly named the "Left Foot Baptist Church." We live in a world of division, but God wants His people to have peace. Not temporary peace that comes from compromise and lowered standards, but a peace that comes from true fellowship with the Spirit of God and one another. How can this peace be achieved? How can we live in peace with God and His people?



I. Remember Your Past [v. 11-13]

Paul is instructing the Ephesians to remember their past condition. From their pasts they were reminded of three things. First, they were reminded that they were once **sinful** and under the dominion of the flesh (v. 11). They were also reminded that they were **strangers** to the people and organization by which the true worship of the true God was maintained (v. 12a). They had no citizenship among those who worshiped in Spirit and in truth. Not only were they reminded that they were once sinful and strangers, but they were also **skeptical** (v. 12b-13). They were skeptical of God and lived their lives as practical atheists. They thought, spoke, and lived as if there was no God and thus had

Ivy

no real hope. Most people hope for something good after death and many more have placed their hope in things that are rather shaky. People often place their hope in religion or being religious, being a good moral person, or in walking an aisle in a church service. But without Christ in their life they are still in their sin, still strangers to God and still without God in their lives.

II. Realize God's Peace [v. 14-18]

Paul wanted the church at Ephesus to realize the peace that God has provided in Christ between groups of people. Peace here refers to a unity in worship produced between Jews and Gentiles who were before alienated and separate. They once worshipped different God's at different places. The Jews once hated the Gentiles, and the Gentiles once despised the Jews. At Ephesus however they were at peace. They worshiped the same God and had the same

Savior. They belonged to the same family and were headed for the same heaven. God had brought peace between two very different peoples. It is a blessing that people of different cultures, classes, and colors can be united by the power of Christ. Christ brings all believers into one unified body and one unified family.

Christ has not only provided peace between people groups, but He has also provided peace with God. Before meeting Christ we were enemies of God (Rom. 5:10). Through Christ however, a peace treaty was offered to us. God has provided peace to all who will repent of their sin, place their trust and faith in Christ Jesus and experience a transformation by His power and grace. According to Romans 5:1, due to the justification obtained through faith in Christ, we experience peace with God.

III. Receive Your Place [v. 19-22]

Paul instructs the church at Ephesus to receive, by faith, their new place in Christ. They were instructed to receive their new citizenship in the Kingdom of

God (v. 19a), their new membership in the family of God (v. 19b), and their new designation as temples of God (v. 20-22). They were to receive their place. It is hard for some people to willingly receive what God has promised. Rather than remembering their past, they are stuck in their past. Rather than realizing the peace of God in their life, they reject it and live in fear and doubt. Rather than receiving what God has promised, they live defeated lives. They refuse to accept what God freely offers them. They don't know peace with God or with other believers because they refuse to receive their place by grace through simple faith.

Take time to remember your past and to realize the peace God offers. Then make sure you receive your place in Christ and start living like a child of the King who is the temple of the Holy Spirit of Almighty God. Then you will learn how to live in peace with God and with His people.

Ivy is pastor of Fairfield Church, Moselle.

We can put this passage into one sentence..."By the sin of Adam all men became sinners and were alienated from God; by the righteousness of Jesus Christ all men became righteous and are restored to a right relationship with God" (W. Barclay).

Paul says this much more clearly in First Corinthians 15:21: "As by man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."

Some truths we need to remember from this lesson are as follows:

- 1) We must be reconciled to God.
- 2) The only basis for reconciliation is to accept God's abundant grace through Jesus Christ as our personal Savior.
- 3) People cannot save themselves through their own efforts. The death of Christ will serve as payment for one's sin, and will meet God's standard of righteousness. That's the free gift of salvation through God's grace.

Davis is a member of First Church, McComb.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

"What About God's Grace?"

Romans 5:12-21

The word "grace" is so beautiful. I can think of a lot of special friends and my own wonderful mother whose name is Grace. But the most amazing form of the word is what God gives us as His personal gift when we have accepted His Son as our Savior. Grace is God's undeserved love that never stops... What a lovely name to give to a new baby daughter.

1. We All Need Grace (Romans 5:12-14)

Many people take God's grace for granted because they don't understand what it is or how it affects their lives. None of us deserves grace, but we experience it through our salvation.

Soon after God created this beautiful world, sin made an ugly entrance. Our passage, Romans 5:12-21, is difficult to

understand. According to one theologian, "No passage of the New Testament has had such an influence on theology as this, and no passage is more difficult for a modern mind to understand." It is difficult because of Paul's wording. Paul spoke in terms that were familiar to the Jews but are unfamiliar to us.

The word, "therefore", (v.12) doesn't seem necessary to connect the previous verses or the verses following. The Jewish people didn't think of themselves as individuals. They thought of themselves as a clan, a family, or a nation. Paul saw Adam, not as one person so his sin was the sin of all people.

From the time of Adam to the time of Moses, sin was in the world. Yet, the written law was not present. This sin was not



Davis

fully charged to man. The result of sin was death and during that time, people died. Death was the consequence of man's sin. We all need God's gift of grace.

2. We All Need The Experience Of Grace (Romans 5:15-17)

The word "one" is mentioned many times in the lesson passage. The key thought here is that, when God looks upon the human race, He sees but two men: Adam and Christ. Every human being is either "in Adam" and is lost, or is "in Christ" and is saved. There is no middle ground. Verse fourteen states that Adam is a type (figure) of Christ. Adam is referred to as the "First Adam", and Christ is referred to as the "Last Adam." (1 Corinthians 15:45-47)

Adam was similar to Jesus in that he, as one man, brought sin and death into the world. Christ, as one person, made possible the free gift; the grace of eternal life, into the world.

We need to remember that all people are sinners until they repent of their sins and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. It is only then that they may experience the abundance of God's Grace. It's free, but I continually thank God for His grace. Let's remind every Christian we know to thank God for His blessing of grace.

Verse fifteen draws a contrast between the trespass (Adam's act), and the gracious act of God in Christ. The word judgment gives the idea of a judicial sentence, but condemnation includes the execution of the penalty. (v. 16)

This week's passages parallel some contrasts such as trespass and grace, condemnation and justification and death and life. The words "much more" show the degree of the triumph of Christ over Adam. (vv. 16-17) The experience of God's grace is essential to all Christians living today.

3. We All Need The Abundance Of Grace (Romans 5:18-21)

We need to remember that all people are sinners until they repent of their sins and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. It is only then that they may experience the abundance of God's Grace. It's free, but I continually thank God for His grace. Let's remind every Christian we know to thank God for His blessing of grace.

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Pastor/chaplain copes with personal, soldiers' needs

ONORTHERN IRAQ (ABP) — In Iraq, Army Chaplain Joe Moffitt sees himself as a spiritual medic who offers healing to souls in trauma.

"I have found that pastoral care here is oftentimes more like triage, as compared to that in the church. There are times when you experience the traumatic in the church, but I am inundated with it here," said Moffitt, pastor of St. John's Church in Virginia Beach, Va., who has served since last November as troop chaplain with the 463rd Engineer Combat Battalion north of Baghdad.

"The decisions these soldiers make on a day-to-day basis can get themselves or someone else killed or hurt. They deal with death and the possibility of it. They are separated from their families and when their families are hurting, most often, there is nothing these guys can do about it. It is triage, helping these guys so they can continue to function in a combat setting. In the local church, for the most part, it is systematic growth with some trauma thrown in; here, it is mostly trauma that I am dealing with."

Moffitt offers no easy answers. Rather, he offers to join the sol-



IN THE BATTLEFIELD — Baptist Chaplain Joe Moffitt of Virginia Beach, Va., leads soldiers in prayer in an undisclosed location in northern Iraq. Moffitt has found the separation he feels from his pregnant wife and young daughter is difficult to battle while ministering to the needs of the troops around him. (ABP photo)

diers on the journey of discovering God in the middle of tough times. "In a dry and weary land where there is no water, I try to help them find water. I give them

permission to say what they feel. I help them articulate their thoughts," he said. "Together, we look for God in the midst of the pain, and God is never far way."

Certain moments of spiritual and emotional intimacy have left a profound impression on Moffitt: "Holding a soldier while he clings to me and weeps because his world has fallen apart. Standing in a group of my soldiers, touching one another, grieving for one of our comrades who was killed. Holding the hand and praying with a kid while waiting for a Medivac helicopter — a soldier who has just had half his foot taken off by shrapnel, and he is angry because he never had a chance to fight the guys who did it.

"Rejoicing with a kid who has missed having his head taken off by half an inch. Holding a 3-year-old Iraqi girl who has had terrible things done to her and her family by insurgents. I will never forget her face. Being thanked by a teenage Iraqi boy for giving him a future. Having my cheeks kissed by an old man for being here."

Soldiers wrestle with fear, doubt and the pain of being separated from home and family, and Moffitt has found it helpful to let troops know their chaplain shares the same feelings. "They are tired, and I am, too. They

have problems at home; I can relate. They are lonely; I am, too. At times, they struggle with fear. I struggle with that, as well, at times. They are angry and confused. I am oftentimes feeling it with them," he said. "I am a spiritual friend to these guys, and I walk with them through their pain. Often, I am experiencing it with them, and that is why it is so important that my relationship with God is right."

In particular, Moffitt has found it difficult to be separated from his two-year-old daughter Jordan and his wife Kelli, who is expecting their second child in November. He last saw them in February when he was home on leave.

Moffitt feels grateful for the ministry his church provides to his family while he is serving overseas, and for the way deacons and retired ministers in the congregation have served in his absence. "I cannot say enough for them, but because of them, I was able to focus on my duty, my soldiers, my calling because I knew that my family was in good hands," he said.

Moffitt's call to active duty in Iraq came at a difficult time for St. John's Church, which had just started a three million dollar building project — but Moffitt made it clear he was in the Army Reserve when the church called him as pastor. "So, they knew the chances were high for me to be called up," he said. "I have a great church, and they are very supportive. We live in a Navy town, so many of my parishioners are currently in the service, retired or prior service. They view this as a calling for me and for them. This is their way of supporting our nation."

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"FOUR BY FAITH" GOSPEL QUARTET available for concerts in churches, Christian school fundraisers, senior citizen functions, etc. Call Ron at (225) 328-5961 or email us at fourbyfaith@bellsouth.net.

GROWING SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH IN PRAIRIEVILLE, LA, seeks dynamic music minister. Duties to include leadership of all music worship services, along with adult and children's choirs.

Church located right off I-10 south of Baton Rouge. Fax resumes to (225) 673-6624, or email to dutchbc@eatael.net.

HUMORIST/AUTHOR ARLIS NICHOLS, Enterprise, Mississippi. Regrettably, I have lost telephone service due to Katrina. Please call my cell phone at (601) 938-9754 for G-rated humor that honors Christ and motivates believers. Proverbs 17:22.

CAHABA STEEPLE CLEANERS, no exception to quality workmanship. Very reasonable prices, (334) 412-4411.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

SENIOR PASTOR: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, ROGERSVILLE, ALABAMA is seeking a full-time pastor. If you feel God leading you to send your resume, please send to pastor search committee, 222 College Street, Rogersville, AL 35652 or email esmmason@netzero.net.

COUNTRY CHURCH WITH APPROXIMATELY 150 ACTIVE MEMBERS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR. Please send resumes to Good Hope Baptist Church, pastor search committee, 678 Good Hope Church Road, Adamsville, TN 38310.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

www.mbc.org

MS POSITIONS

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC: Trace Ridge Baptist Church, Ridgeland, Miss. Resumes are being accepted for a bi-vocational minister of music. Send resumes to the church at P.O. Box 2726, Ridgeland, MS 39158, attn: music search committee, or email jbarnes@netdoor.com.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MADISON, MISS., is seeking a dynamic, Christian leader of young people to immediately fill the full-time position of minister of youth. Please mail letters of interest with credentials to FBC Madison, P.O. Box 400, Madison, MS 39130-0400, or email Shari Hurt, pastoral secretary at shurt@fbcmadison.org.

FIRST CHURCH, GLUCKSTADT, Miss., seeking a music minister for Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights only. Blended worship, free-flowing format. Contact Author Comans at (601) 209-6000 or email authorcomans@aol.com.